

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 135

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the life and memory of Donald J. Hall,  
Professor of Law at Vanderbilt Law School.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Professor Donald J. Hall of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Donald Hall was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished attorney and distinguished scholar, Donald J. Hall was a nationally recognized legal expert in criminal law and served thirty-seven years as an esteemed professor of criminal law at Vanderbilt Law School; and

WHEREAS, a native of Waltham, Massachusetts, Donald J. Hall joined the faculty at Vanderbilt Law School after earning his Juris Doctorate from the University of Florida Law School in 1968 and two years of private practice in Sarasota, Florida; and

WHEREAS, one of the inaugural recipients of the Vanderbilt Chair of Teaching Excellence in 1994, Professor Hall would spend his entire thirty-seven year academic career at Vanderbilt Law School where he would also serve as Associate Dean from 1979 to 1984; and

WHEREAS, in his capacity as Professor of Criminal Law, Donald Hall was revered by his students as they selected him to receive the school's outstanding teacher award nine times. The award was renamed for him in 2005; and

WHEREAS, the author of numerous scholarly works, Donald Hall was the co-author of *Criminal Procedure: The Post-Investigative Process*, which is widely used in law schools across the nation and was the inaugural recipient of the Tennessee Bar Association Outstanding Law Professor Award in 1990; and

WHEREAS, the Advisor and Coach of the National Moot Court Team at Vanderbilt Law School, Professor Hall also served on multiple Law School and University committees but his primary passion at the Law School was teaching the students in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, respected for his extensive knowledge of the law, Donald J. Hall rendered sterling service as co-chair of the State Supreme Court's Commission on Gender Fairness, was selected by Governor Phil Bredesen to be one of the first six members of the Tennessee Ethics Commission, and helped shape the State of Tennessee's penal code as a member of the Tennessee Sentencing Commission; and

WHEREAS, an avid cyclist, racquetball and tennis player, Mr. Hall also lent his time and considerable talents to a number of charitable and civic organizations, including Family and Children's Services of Nashville, where he served as President of the Board; the Metro-Nashville Public Education Foundation; and the Hume-Fogg Academic High School Association; and

WHEREAS, devoted to his family, Mr. Hall is survived by his beloved wife of forty-eight years, Nancy; his devoted daughters, Kelly Klaaren and husband Josh, and Pamela Sonderman; four treasured grandchildren, Josie Klaaren, Nadine Klaaren, Amelia Sonderman, and Byron Sonderman; and his brother and sister, George Hall and Susan Naylor; and

WHEREAS, Donald Hall leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, seldom do gentlemen of his stature walk among us, and it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional attorney, resolute public servant, and extraordinary human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Donald J. Hall, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Hall.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.